



The G.A.P. Network

A program of Prevention Action Alliance

Grief Turned to Advocacy

Below are two stories of grief that have captured the interest of others, including many across the country. Both of them demonstrate the power of grief turned into advocacy, whether it's by raising awareness of the human toll this epidemic exacts on us all or connecting families with existing resources.

**"We felt like we really had it covered.
In retrospect we didn't."**



"I felt that no matter how bad things got, we would always be able to get Sam the help he needed. We tried both local and out of state treatment facilities, but each time a weak moment in an otherwise successful recovery meant a relapse. Throughout all of this, what we learned is we really didn't have it covered after all. We weren't equipped with all the tools we needed to succeed. Since his passing, I've come to realize there are now more families than ever in the same desperate situation we were in with Sam. That's why we set up our foundation, Cover2 Resources."

—Greg McNeil

The foundation highlights resources, service providers, and programs throughout Ohio that help prevent, treat, and support those in recovery from opioid use disorder.

[Read News Article](#)

[Visit Cover2 Website](#)

[View Cover 2
Podcasts](#)

Emotional Obituary Seizes Nation's Attention

"It's their story, or the story of their neighbor, or the story of their daughter, or the story of their coworker's daughter," Kate O'Neill tells NPR's Scott Simon



"That part of her life, it was so central to who she was as an adult," she says. "Her addiction didn't define her, but it did define the way she lived.

Brandon del Pozo, a police chief in Linsenmeir's hometown of Burlington, agrees with that point. But he laments that the thousands of lives lost to addiction each year are unable to hold the nation's attention in quite the same way as Linsenmeir's story was able to do.

[Read Madelyn Ellen Linsenmeir's Obituary](#)

[NPR's News Article With Audio](#)

[Read the Police Chief's Response to the Obituary](#)

OUCH That Stereotype Hurts: Communicating Respectfully in a Diverse World

Join us on December 7th for this interactive workshop that focuses on the importance of cultural competence and is based on the book by Leslie C. Aguilar. It will demonstrate how just one person speaking up can inspire others to do the same.



Participants in this workshop will learn six specific techniques on how to deal with situations that can be awkward and damaging around the use of stereotypical and biased communication and how to become more culturally competent. Applicable to both the workplace and one's personal life, this workshop offers participants the understanding and skills needed to deal with our increasingly diverse world by promoting communication skills that encourage inclusion and respect.

[Register](#)

Opioid Package Signed into Law

The President signed the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6) October 24. Prior to the President's signature, this legislation passed with broad bipartisan support in the House by a vote of 393-8 and in the Senate by a vote of 98-1. Read specific details of the bill at the button below.

[SUMMARY—H.R. 6: SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act](#)

[FULL TEXT—H.R. 6: SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act](#)

Ohio START Pilot Program Expands to Help Families Dealing With Addiction

The opioid crisis has left some parents struggling with addiction, resulting in an overburdened foster-care system. An innovative program is expanding in Ohio to help these parents and their children heal.

It's estimated that 80 percent of abuse and neglect cases in Ohio's child-welfare system are related to drugs, including opioids.

[Read Scene News Article](#)

Ohio Events

WHEN: November 9th from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
WHERE: Clark State University, Brinkman Center,
100 S. Limestone St. Springfield, OH 45502



This training will provide education on how to recognize peer distress, provide support, and refer others to mental health services when in need.

This MHFA Training will be offered at no cost to participants. All who register will:

1. **Participate in a full-day, interactive workshop:** This FREE workshop features veteran instructors, interactive activities, role-play demonstrations, and videos to educate participants in recognizing signs of poor mental health and supporting one another
2. **Receive A paper-back MHFA manual:** All participants receive a free copy of the Mental Health First Aid manual which they can use to remember core content and crisis de-escalation steps to help those in distress in their communities.
3. **Be eligible to receive child-care per-diems:** Registrants are eligible to receive 1 child-care per-diem per family, providing \$15 per hour (\$120 for those who attend the full-day training).

[Register Here](#)



The **Healthy Kids Learning Community** platform will enable participants to share their concerns and practices on youth and families impacted by the opioid epidemic. They'll also be able to improve outcomes for children and families by increasing collaboration with child welfare agencies, substance abuse, behavioral health treatment providers, first responders, and the court system.

Urban Zen: Avoiding Burnout in High Stress Work Environments, is an interactive, three hour session designed to teach the participants to use the healing modalities of yoga

therapy, Reiki, contemplative oil therapy, nutrition, and contemplative care. This curriculum is uniquely designed to treat the classic symptoms of **secondary traumatic stress** and can be used within, and potentially shared across, any of our child-serving systems: child welfare, behavioral health, juvenile justice, education, health care.

You don't need to be a licensed provider to attend or benefit from this training. We encourage workers from all child serving systems to attend as well as first responders, family members, kinship providers, and anyone else who would like to learn how to stay healthy as you engage and support our youth and families in Ohio. Urban Zen: Avoiding Burnout in High Stress Work Environments sessions are available:

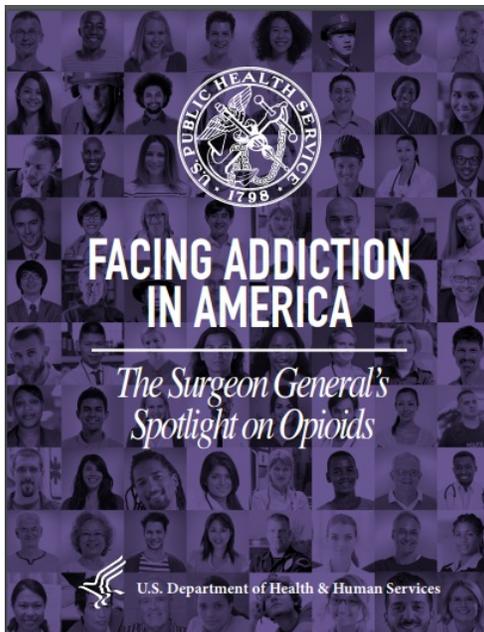
- 11/14/18 - Tuscarawas Co JFS, 389 16th St SW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663.
- 11/29/18 - Middleburg Hts Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, 16699 Bagley Rd, Middleburg Hts, OH.
- 12/6/18 - Ross County DD, 167 W. Main St., Chillicothe, OH.
- 1/17/19 - Sandusky Artisans Co-op, 138 E Market St, Sandusky, OH.
- 2/5/19 - Montgomery County ADAMHS, 409 E. Monument Ave, Dayton, OH.

To learn more about either opportunity, [visit Wraparound Ohio's website](#).

Interested in either training? Email Kimberlyn Meyer.

Surgeon General Releases Spotlight on Opioids: Facing Addiction in America

"Addiction is a brain disease that touches families across America – even my own," said U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams. **"We need to work together to put an end to stigma."**



On September 20th, 2018, the Surgeon General's report calls for a cultural shift in Americans' conversations about the opioid crisis and recommend actions that can begin to eradicate stigma from the topic of substance use disorder.

We encourage all Ohioans to read this report. Everyday, we can learn more about how we can play our role in prevention.

[According to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), overdose deaths in 2017 increased by almost 10 percent—claiming the lives of more than 70,000 Americans.

Science tells us no area of the United States is exempt from the opioid crisis. Yet, only 53 percent of the public consider opioid use disorder a major concern. As a result, the Surgeon General is calling on everyone to do the following:

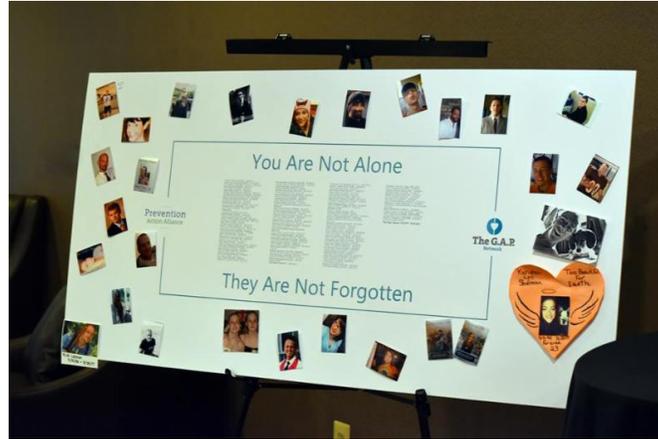
- Talk about opioid misuse. Have a conversation about preventing drug misuse and overdose.
- Be safe. Only take opioid medications as prescribed, make sure to store medication in a secure place, and dispose of unused medication properly.
- Understand pain and talk with your healthcare provider. Treatments other than opioids can be effective in managing pain.
- Understand that addiction is a chronic disease. With the right treatment and supports, people do recover.

- Be prepared. Get, and learn how to use, naloxone, an opioid overdose reversing drug.

Report: Facing Addiction in America

Website: Surgeon General: Facing Addiction in America

Honoring Our Grief



The opioid epidemic has devastated Ohio. Currently, 14 Ohioans each day are passing away due to substance misuse, and each one of them is loved by someone.

You are not alone in your grief. [Here we remember those people as the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters that they were.](#) They are not forgotten.

If you would like to make a submission to the Memorial Banner, please contact Tyler Begley at tbegley@preventionactionalliance.org.

Memorial Banner Web Page



Questions? Comments Suggestions?

[Click here to email Prevention Action Alliance](#)

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